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## NEW BATTLE OF THE ATLANTIC

### Further Shots Fired On Appointment Of American Commander

#### COMMENT

While no warrant exists for the assumption that the pending return from Washington of the Director of Commerce and Industry must be taken to imply failure to impress upon the Americans the serious potential damage to Hongkong's internal economy inherent in the U.S. embargo policy, small headway appears to have been made in the achievement of practical and beneficial results.

No fault lies with Mr A. G. Clarke. The Director spent in Washington weeks longer than anticipated. His task was limited; to provide facts and figures for negotiators higher up and to make crystal clear the measures taken by the Hongkong Government to prevent leakage into Communist China of strategic materials. There has, in fact, been minor modification of the attitude originally adopted, and diplomatic discussions are still under way.

Hongkong's present grievance rests in the conviction that the U.S. Commerce Department is being, first, ultra-zealous, and secondly, consciously linking Hongkong's predicament with Britain's unwillingness to co-operate in a programme calling for a blanket ban on all trade with Russia and China, and tending to use this Colony to lever a more amenable spirit out of Downing Street.

Whether that is an accurate assessment or not, such factors are undoubtedly of influence in the American approach to the talks, if they do not predominate. The suggestion is, of course, that Washington is not disposed to give way to Hongkong's genuine requirements without some sort of quid pro quo.

Meanwhile, Hongkong's cotton mills, not in the least interested in the China market, may be forced to suspend operations in a month or two for lack of raw materials and even trivialities like literature are running into obstacles. To Washington, this may be of secondary importance. To Hongkong, it smatters of sheer imposition.

## Mr Churchill and Mr Eden Still Up In Arms

London, Feb. 26.

New shots were fired today in the new "battle of the Atlantic," started by the appointment of an American Admiral as the Supreme Commander of the Atlantic Pact naval forces.

## RED CROSS MISSION TO N. KOREA

Geneva, Feb. 26.

A mission of the International Red Cross Committee, led by its President, M. Paul Ruegger, left here today for Peking in a special Red Cross plane for discussion with the Chinese Foreign Minister, Mr Chou En-lai, and Chinese Red Cross officials on relief in Korea.

The plane, which was painted white, also carried a consignment of medical supplies for North Korean relief.

M. Ruegger's visit has Peking's approval. He will probably discuss also the United Nations war prisoners in North Korea and the establishment of security zones for civilians.

The greater part of the supplies which the mission is taking for wounded prisoners of war and civilians in North Korea is a gift from the Swiss Government.

M. Ruegger will make contact with Pakistani and Indian authorities on his way.—Reuter.

## Troops Sent To N.Z. Docks

Wellington, N.Z. Feb. 26.

The New Zealand government today ordered out troops to unload ships after dockers refused a government order to return to work in the new New Zealand waterfront strike. The strike began one week ago.

The dockers voted to continue the strike for a 40-hour Monday-Friday week, despite the government's threat to invoke penalties under the emergency laws.

The strike was condemned by the Labour Minister Mr William Sullivan, as an extension of the cold war to New Zealand.—United Press.

## Labour Party Reply To Malan

London, Feb. 26.

A large number of Labour Members of Parliament tonight signed a motion intended as a reply to Dr Daniel Malan, South African Prime Minister, on his criticisms of British Commonwealth and Colonial policy and reaffirmed their faith in this policy.

The motion, which was tabled in the House of Commons tonight, expressed confidence in the Government's colonial and Commonwealth policy and stated the belief of the signatories that human beings of all races were born free and equal.—Reuter.

The Prime Minister, Mr Clement Attlee, after considering vigorous protests, told the House of Commons that the British Government still supported the choice of an American.

He tried to calm the troubled waters stirred up by Mr Winston Churchill, the Opposition leader, on this matter last week by announcing that a British Admiral would be in sole command of all naval operations in British home waters.

But the American—Admiral William Fichteler—would be in overall command.

Mr Churchill said he would study the new statement by the Prime Minister—but might find it necessary to force a debate.

It looked at this point as if the battle had been broken off for the time being. But then Mr Churchill's chief lieutenant, Mr Anthony Eden, raised the question of who would decide on the movements of warships in the Atlantic.

Mr Attlee said he thought it was "quite essential" that the Atlantic Supreme Commander would have power to transfer forces from one Atlantic area to another.

This brought Mr Churchill sailing back into the attack. "Nothing—like that ever existed in the late war and never could have been accepted."

"Our life depends upon the maintenance of our sea approaches, whereas, though the United States may suffer a great deal her life is in fact not so affected," he declared.

Mr Attlee said that the forces at sea under the Atlantic Pact would not be an exclusive British fleet in the Western Atlantic or an exclusive fleet in the Eastern Atlantic.

#### TWO AREAS

These matters were under the general direction of the Standing Group of the Atlantic Pact and it was proposed to give power to the Supreme Commander.

The area which would be under the Supreme Commander would be the North Atlantic Ocean, excluding the Mediterranean, and British and European coastal waters.

Mr Attlee said that the North Atlantic would be split into an eastern and western area. The eastern—the most vital for Britain—would be under the command of the British Commander-in-Chief, Home Fleet.

In time of war, he would command not only British forces but also those of America and other Atlantic Pact countries stationed in the area.

The last war had shown that it was important to have an overall Supreme Commander in the North Atlantic.

It was one battlefield in which the mobile threat of the submarine must be matched by a flexible defence system.

There must be a quick re-dispatching of forces to meet the shifting threat.

In considering the nationality of the Supreme Commander,

the Government had had to consider the relative sizes and potential reserves of the navies and air forces of the various Atlantic Powers.

Despite Britain's great naval traditions, she could not alone undertake the defence of the North Atlantic.

Mr Attlee added: "The Government are satisfied that in time of war the proposed arrangements will ensure both the defence of these islands and the fullest participation of all the North Atlantic powers over the whole of the North Atlantic Ocean."

In peace no British ships or planes would be put under the Supreme Commander—except for periods of combined training which would be necessary.

Answering questions, Mr Attlee said the appointment of a Supreme Commander in the Mediterranean has still to be considered. Britain herself would control the allocation of her merchant fleet.

Questioned whether the name of a British Admiral had ever been put forward for the Supreme Command, Mr Attlee said that the principle was decided before individual names were proposed.—Reuter.

## Netherlands Political Crisis

The Hague, Feb. 26.

Queen Juliana of the Netherlands renewed her efforts today to end the five-month-old Dutch Cabinet crisis after negotiations broke down over the week-end.

She called in Parliamentary Party leaders in an effort to find a basis for a coalition government to end the crisis, which began when the Socialist Premier, Dr Willem Drees, handed in his Cabinet's resignation in the dispute over Western New Guinea and Indonesia.

Political sources said that, since the failure of the Catholic leader, Maximilien P. L. Stengen, to form a government last week, the Queen had talked with leaders of both Houses of Parliament but as the talks neared their end today she had announced no choice for the premier designate.

It was believed she would choose another Catholic leader, possibly the Parliamentary chief, Karal Romme.—United Press.

## U.S. Embargo Relaxation Refusal?

London, Feb. 26.

The United States has refused the British request for a relaxation of the United States restrictions on American trade with Hongkong, official sources said today.

Mr A. G. Clarke, Director of Commerce to the Hongkong Government, who has been conducting negotiations in Washington, left London by air for Hongkong today.

Officials said: "He holds out little hope of any relaxation of the restrictions on American trade which are having crippling effect on Hongkong."

It is understood that the British Government now intends to take up the question in the diplomatic level.—United Press.

## Stalin May Try On Hitler Dream

London, Feb. 26.

Military authorities here say they believe the Russians are trying to realise Adolf Hitler's dream and build a submarine that can bombard New York.

Hitler, backed by his Gestapo chief, Heinrich Himmler, wanted a super-submarine built with a platform for launching V-2 type rockets as part of the "vengeance weapon" programme that blitzed London with super-rocket and flying bombs.

After the war, Allied planners discovered that such a weapon was being considered by German naval experts with one main target in view—to drop rockets into New York City while lying off the coast.

Reliable sources now believe engineers familiar with those German plans are among the German rocket and submarine experts helping Russia's ambitious submarine programme.

Also, they said, recent disclosures that the Russians have developed apparatus for launching radio-directed, guided missiles from battleships has jarred Western experts into realising that the Russians may be further ahead on their seaborne guided missile programme than was realised.

Military sources said submarines equipped with rocket launching platforms would be the "logical tactical answer to American air superiority"—United Press.

## HART AVENUE SHOOTING

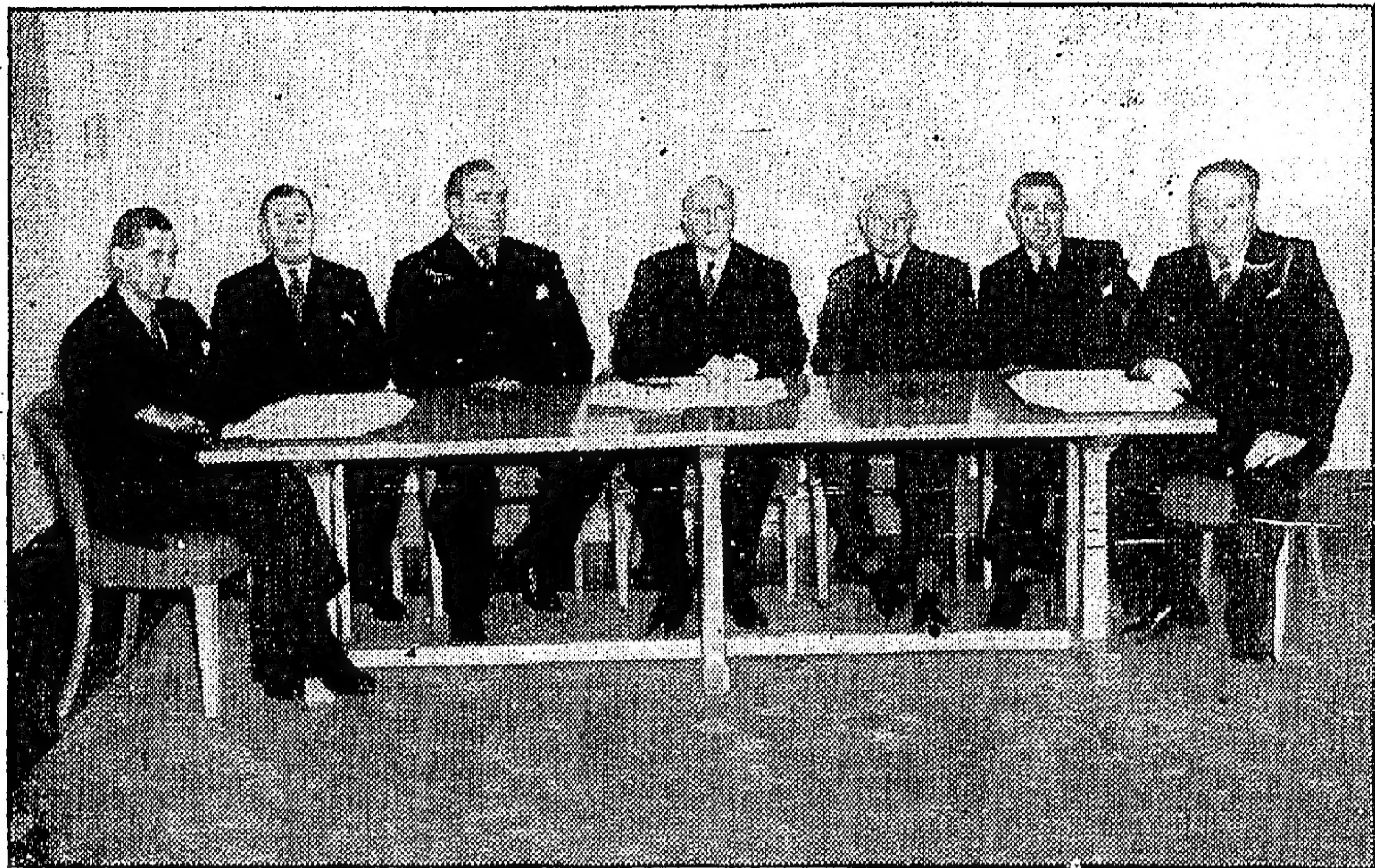
The Police have so far been unable to establish the identity of the man who was shot in Hart Avenue last night.

Investigation is continuing and the Detective Branch in Kowloon are interviewing witnesses today, in an endeavour to find out the identity of the deceased.

The unknown Chinese, whose age is estimated to be about 45, is believed to be a Northerner. He was killed shortly before 10 p.m. yesterday when he was shot from behind while walking near No. 4 Hart Avenue.



## The Men Who Run Britain's Steel



These men comprise Britain's new Steel Corporation—the body which runs the country's steel industry under nationalisation. The picture, taken at the Corporation's headquarters in Chester Street, London, shows (left to right) Mr William Stokes, Mr John Garton, Sir John Green (Deputy Chairman), Mr Steven Harfie (Chairman), General Sir James Steele, Sir Vaughan Berry and Mr Alexander McBain—Central Press.

## CONGRESS EXPECTED TO BACK TRUMAN POLICY

Washington, Feb. 26.

Congressional committees are expected to recommend approval of President Truman's policy of sending American divisions to Europe without restriction by the end of the week in spite of a stand against it by isolationist Republicans.

## Allies Near Accord On 38th Parallel

London, Feb. 26.

Britain and the United States have reached "a very large" measure of agreement in their consultations about the 38th Parallel in Korea, the Foreign Under-Secretary, Mr Ernest Davies, said today.

He was replying to questions in the House of Commons asking whether a joint policy had yet been agreed between Britain and the United States on the United Nations forces re-crossing the 38th Parallel.

Mr Davies said that consultations on Korea with the United States were continuous.

"We are satisfied that on this particular issue we have reached a very large measure of agreement with the United States," he said.

Where there was a possibility of the 38th Parallel being crossed by substantial forces other countries concerned would be consulted, he added.—Reuter.

Led by Senator Robert Taft (Ohio) the opponents of the Government line today fought a rearguard action in an attempt to put a limit on commitments of American troops for service in Europe. Before the committees now studying the issue is a resolution by Senator Kenneth Wherry (Nebraska) to block the sending of troops to Europe until Congress had fixed a policy.

After General George Marshall, American Defence Secretary and the Joint Chiefs of Staff, gave evidence to the committees condemning the isolationists' stand as detrimental to the security interests of the United States, observers here regarded it as a hopeless cause.

The Republican Party is split over the issue. Governor Thomas Dewey, titular head of the Party and some other Republican leaders opposing Senator Taft on it.—Reuter.

### MORSE IN LINE

Senator Wayne Morse, also Republican, said today that he opposed limitation of the number

committed to the defence of Western Europe, including the six-division limit now proposed by the military.

Mr Morse said it would not be fair to the boys already in Europe to limit American strength there and would cause Europe to lose faith in the United States.

He denounced isolationism and "supernationalism" in his own Party in an address before the conference on United States leadership, sponsored by the American Association for the United Nations.

"If my Party nominates an isolationist candidate in 1952 and asks me to campaign on an isolationism platform, I'll take a long walk . . . The perimeter bombing-base theory of American military assistance to Europe will not be accepted by the European countries. They won't buy it. We've got to be there with them."

### WILL VOTE FOR MORE

Senator Morse also said that if the proposed six divisions were sent to Europe. "I'm going to vote for more troops and arms to follow those boys."

On the question of wheat for India, Mr Morse said the United States should act at the "earliest possible date" to give India the wheat it had requested.

"We need to pay attention to what is going on in India," he said. "As India goes, so will go the free strength of Asia."

The Governor of Minnesota, Mr Luther Youngdahl, told the meeting the time was ripe for the creation of a United Nations Legion, possibly patterned after the French Foreign Legion and integrated with the military operations of supporting nations.—United Press.

## Cultural Centre Closes Down

Prague, Feb. 26.

The French Institute in Prague, a teaching and cultural centre which includes a lending library of French books, has closed its doors.

An announcement in French and Czech, posted outside the Institute's doors this afternoon, said: "The Institute is closed until further notice."—Reuter.

# Historian Urges All-out Defence Plan By U.S.

Washington, Feb. 26.

Mr Arthur Schlesinger, Jr., noted historian and author, today recommended that the United States guarantee the territorial integrity of Yugoslavia and the United Nations extend its authority to Formosa.

Mr Schlesinger, Harvard history professor, stated his views in an article issued by the Foreign Policy Association, an independent research group. He recommended that "in the next months" the following steps be taken:

1. "Expansion of our army to about 4,000,000 men, committing divisions to Europe as speedily as we can."
2. Work out with the free European nations a schedule of European rearmament, including "West Germany but giving that country lower priority".
3. Issue a guarantee of the territorial integrity of Yugoslavia.
4. Attempt to maintain the U.S. position in Korea.
5. Develop a policy toward Communist China which would encourage rather than stifle any impulses on the part of Peking toward independence from Moscow.
6. "Show no fear entering a conference with the Russians."
7. "United Nations authority over trouble spots such as Formosa and Indo-China."

while this is true it is equally true the armed truce of the cold war is to be preserved . . .

"Secondly, while military considerations must remain . . . we must never forget that basic strength in the long pull comes from economic and moral action. Weapons like these must not be allowed to rust in our arsenal."—United Press.

## LONDON RIPOSTE TO MALAN

Johannesburg, Feb. 26.

Mr Patrick Gordon-Walker, Secretary for Commonwealth Relations, commenting on the statement by the South African Prime Minister, Dr Daniel Malan, said today that the policy of working towards self-government for colonies within the Commonwealth was not new.

It had been announced and reaffirmed repeatedly in the last 20 years.

Dr Malan, in an interview with the South African nationalist newspaper Die Burger, had said that British colonial policy would lead to the liquidation of the Commonwealth.

Mr Gordon-Walker said that whenever anything had been done to enable a colony to become a new member of the Commonwealth much information had been passed between Commonwealth Governments, which had had every opportunity to comment on the development.

He added that clearly new nations were going to rise alongside the Western nations, whatever anybody thought about it, and then would join the comity of nations.—Reuter.

## Torch To The Negro Race

Lagos, Nigeria, Feb. 26.

Nigeria's leading morning newspaper, the Daily Times, said today that West Africa's orderly progress was the first nail in the coffin of Dr Malan's "diabolical policy of apartheid (racial separation)."

Dr Malan was speaking the truth when he said that the "new situation holds nothing good for South Africa," the newspaper said.

It was commenting on Dr Malan's criticism last Friday of Britain's policy of admitting colonies to the Commonwealth. The Gold Coast elections, the newspaper said, had been a resounding success.

"They will act as a torch to the Negro race everywhere," the paper added.

The new Nigerian constitution, would bring a new freedom and a new responsibility to the largest Negro community in the world.—Reuter.

## TONKIN DRIVE SUCCESSES

Saigon, Feb. 26.

French Union reconnaissance patrols killed 23 Vietminh and took 36 prisoners in all sectors in the Tonkin area during the past 24 hours, a French Army communique reported today.

The communique also stated that the mopping-up operation started last Wednesday in the region about 20 miles north of Saigon, ended today with the Air Force continuing attack against the Vietminh forces in that sector and in the marshy Plaine des Jones.

French Union forces also killed two, wounded two and took six prisoners in the Kompong-cham Province in Cambodia, about 150 miles northwest of Saigon.—Reuter.

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# TAFT EXPOUNDS DEFEATISM

## *Demands Commitments By Others Before Sending Troops*

### Americans "Deliberately Misled" About Europe

Washington, Feb. 26.

Senator Robert Taft said today that as many as 18 United States land divisions might be sent to Europe unless Congress limited the power of President Truman.

It would be "foolhardy" to commit even six divisions to the defence of Western Europe until the United States obtained definite commitments on contributions by the European nations themselves.

Senator Taft was testifying before the Senate Foreign Relations and Armed Services Committees after Mr John Sherman Cooper (Republican Adviser to the State Department) had said that failure by this country to provide ground troops for the North Atlantic defence force might involve "the greatest surrender in history."

Senator Taft said that Administration witnesses had deliberately befogged the whole project. He had no doubt that the six divisions which the Secretary of Defence, General George Marshall, said would be assigned to the Allied force under General Dwight D. Eisenhower were "only a starter."

General Marshall had told the Committees that four divisions would be sent to Europe in addition to the two already there.

Referring to General Marshall's statement that Europe would contribute "the major portion" of the ground troops, Senator Taft declared: "This might mean an American contribution of anywhere from 10 per cent to 30 per cent, from perhaps six divisions to 18 divisions."

#### TAFT REQUIREMENT

Unless the United States obtained definite assurances from other nations that they would fill their quotas, the United States should certainly not risk its divisions to provide a hopeless defence, Senator Taft declared.

"We would certainly be condemning our army to defeat and Europe to destruction if Russia attacks," he said.

Senator Taft said that, "as far as anybody can judge," only 37 divisions—"an inadequate army"—were in sight for Western Europe's defence, including six from the United States.

He told the Committee that, so far as he was concerned, the issue was not merely the sending of additional American troops to Europe but the establishment of an international army there.

He insisted that Congress must decide this question and must have definite commitments that the European nations would bear the greatest share of the troop burden.

#### FOG OF UNCERTAINTY

Contending that the President had no power to enter into agreements with other nations to establish an international army without the approval of Congress, Senator Taft said that the Administration plans were being kept deliberately "in a fog of uncertainty."

He said that Administration witnesses before the Committees had "tried to escape admitting" that there was a definite plan for the set-up of an international force.

"The American people are being deliberately misled into the idea that we are only considering the shipment of a few divisions of land soldiers to Europe," Senator Taft declared. —Reuter.

#### DECISIONS MADE

Mr John Sherman Cooper, testifying before a Congressional Committee on the troops-for-Europe issue, said that American participation was indis-

pensable to development of an adequate Western European defence against any aggression.

"I am certain that the intellectual and moral decision has been made by the Governments of the United Kingdom, France and Italy that their countries must make a full defence effort and that they will support fully the defence of Western Europe," he said.

Mr Cooper, who attended the Atlantic Pact defence meetings in London and Brussels, said that there was a full understanding in Europe of the aggressive purposes of Soviet Russia and of their threat to Europe.

Mr Cooper said that since Korea Britain's defence was increased three times and that programmes were under way which would double military production in two years and quadruple production in the third and fourth years.

Britain had as large a force in Germany as the United States and had already made the decision to send more troops.

France, since the war in Korea, had increased her defence budget by some 30 per cent, had more troops in Germany than the United States and had decided to send additional troops.—Reuter.

#### DEFEATISM

Senator Taft tangled with the chairman of the Armed Services Committee, Senator Richard Russell, when Mr Russell reminded him that the Joint Chiefs of Staff had said an extra four divisions would "help get our original two out of Europe if the need arose."

"That is a defeatist attitude," retorted Senator Taft.

Senator Russell wanted to know if the Joint Chiefs' attitude was "any more defeatist than your own."

Senator Virgil Chapman noted Senator Taft's warning that the United States was heading toward a "garrison state" with increased military spending and asked if this would not also be true if Russia overran Western Europe.

"I don't see any reason for a larger force if Europe is overrun than is contemplated today," said Mr Taft.

He amended his reply to admit the possibility of needing more air strength, particularly if a Soviet onslaught against the United States seemed likely.

#### ANGERED

Mr Chapman asked if Mr Taft agreed with Mr Thomas Dewey, Governor of New York that the loss of Europe would cut off the United States from 71 strategic materials. Angered a bit, Senator Taft replied that Mr Dewey had made a "rather violent assumption." He said the fall of Europe would not mean loss

### Duchess Of Windsor "Fine"

New York, Feb. 26.

The secretary of the Duchess of Windsor told the United Press on Monday that the condition of the Duchess was "very fine, but unfortunately we do not have the date of her return from hospital yet."

The Duchess underwent an operation at Harkness Pavilion last week.—United Press.

of the entire British Empire, Africa and the European colonies.

He was asked if the United States might not be in peril if Europe fell. He replied:

"I don't think the United States would be in much more danger than it is today."

However, he continued, if it lost air superiority, it might be in "more danger, perhaps fatal danger."

#### CHOICE IN COMMAND

Senators Russell and Chapman wanted to know what Senator Taft thought of General Eisenhower (whom many consider Senator Taft's chief rival for the Republican Presidential nomination) and his European assignment.

Senator Taft: "You could not have gotten a better man, but the appointment of an American has given us responsibility for the project far more than the appointment of a European would have done."

Senator Chapman: "Do you know of any general that the American and European people would trust more than Eisenhower?"

Senator Taft: "General MacArthur, perhaps, but I don't want to draw any comparisons between the two."

#### GERMAN POSITION

In answer to Committee questions, Mr Cooper said he believed the military strength of Germany, Greece, Turkey and Spain would contribute to collective security, but he declined to comment on the steps involved in bringing them into the pact set-up.

He said he felt strongly that the German people have already made their bid to be with the West but he added that he felt equally sure they would not agree to rearming until many intermediary problems had been solved.

He believed there was no question but that they would join the collective defence effort once they are confident the United States and Great Britain will participate with Europe. On the ground if an attack should come.

Later, in answer to a question by Senator Harry Cain (Republican), Mr Cooper said he believed that "as Western Europe is strengthened, Germany will come along with us."

"Until Germany herself decides officially and until arms are available and some degree of strength is placed round her, nothing is going to be done anyway," he added.

Mr Cooper declined to discuss the Spanish question at all other than to say Spain's military strength would add to collective defence.—United Press.



Robert Helpmann, one of the greatest of male ballet dancers, announced his retirement at Sadler's Wells Theatre, London, last week. Helpmann, who left Australia for England 19 years ago, is 40 and has always said that he would retire at that age. He has been Britain's greatest male ballet star and choreographer, a stage and screen actor and opera producer. Here he is seen in his part of the drunken impressario, his final role.—Central Press.

### Appeal To The "Threatened"

Berlin, Feb. 26.

The Soviet-backed "World Peace Council" tonight appealed to the people of "threatened" nations to "force their governments, through powerful protests," to conclude a peace treaty this year with unified Germany.

In a resolution read at the close of the six-day conference of Communists and Communist sympathisers from many parts of the world, the Council charged that international treaties stipulating German demilitarisation have been broken in West Germany through the "revival of Nazism and militarism.—United Press.

### MODERNISING U.S. NAVY

Washington, Feb. 26.

The Senate passed legislation today authorising the Navy to build some 140 new major vessels and to convert 292 other ships for use by the fleet. In all, it would add some 1,500,000 tons to the Navy's fighting strength.—United Press.

The Senate action was unanimous and taken by a voice vote. The measure, already approved by the House, now goes to the White House.

The contemplated programme would permit the Navy to build some 140 new major vessels and to convert 292 other ships for use by the fleet. In all, it would add some 1,500,000 tons to the Navy's fighting strength.—United Press.

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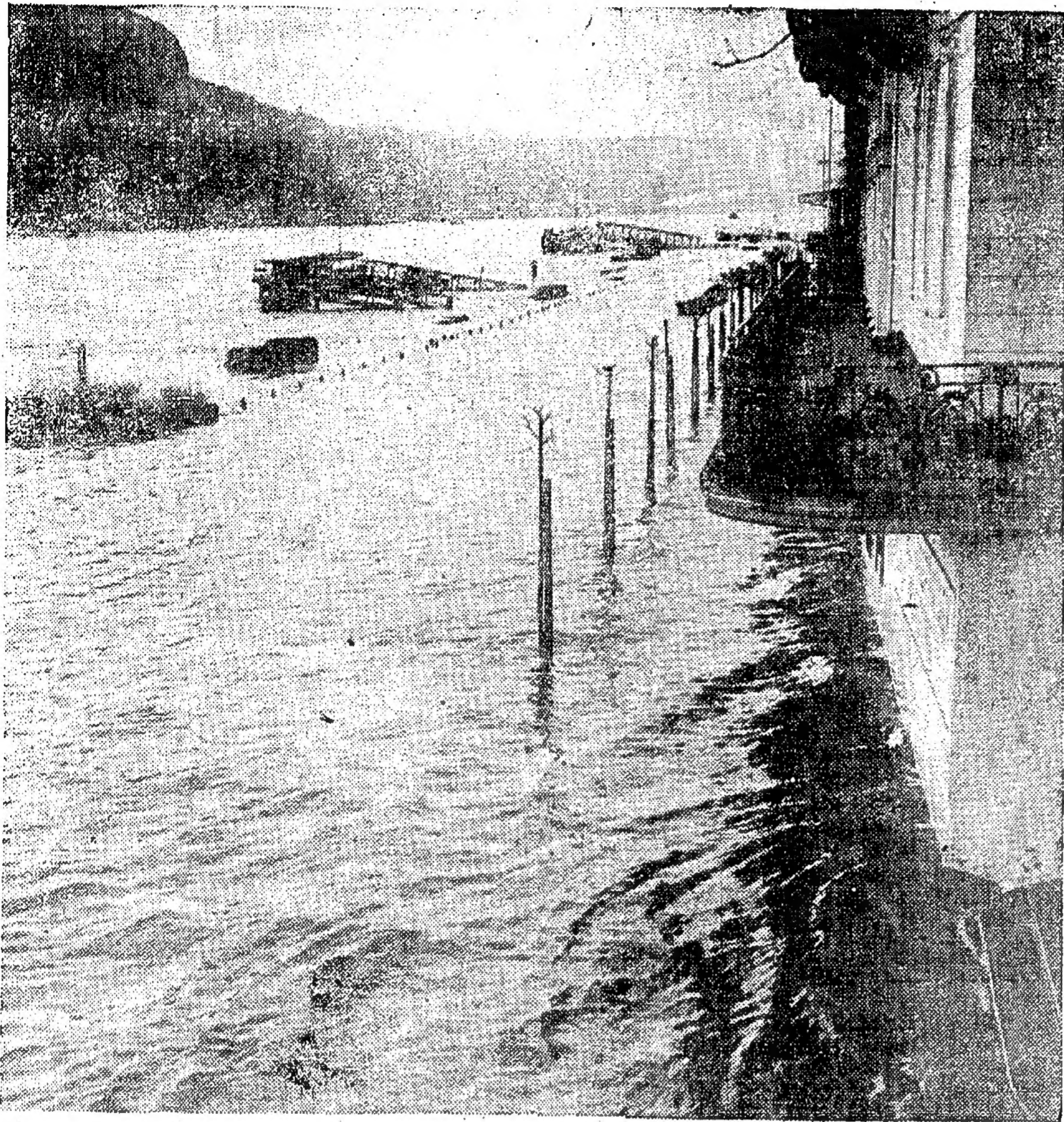
Burt LANCASTER  
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in  
"MISTER 880"

A 20th Century-Fox Picture



## RHINE GOES ON THE RAMPAGE



Swollen by melting snow in the mountains following warmer weather in Germany, the Rhine goes on the rampage, flooding many towns and villages along its banks. This picture, taken in Remagen, shows the embankment under water.

### Students Create Havoc

Madrid, Feb. 26.  
University students in Barcelona, continuing their rioting against increased tram fares, today threw petards into the streets. The police made many arrests.  
The University buildings were closed today and all classes were suspended. The police believe that the riots were organised by people outside the University.—Reuter.

### Short Cut Was Fatal

Tokyo, Feb. 26.  
A 40-year-old woman who tried to take a short cut across a mountain by walking through a railway tunnel was crushed to death on Sunday near Atami.  
An electric train passing through the tunnel caught the bundle she was carrying on her back and flung her against the tunnel wall.—Reuter.

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## Burma To Follow Policy Of "Joint Ventures"

Rangoon, Feb. 26.

Burma will follow a policy of "joint ventures" between Burmese and foreign interests in her commerce and industry, the Prime Minister, Thakin Nu, announced today.

He told the annual general meeting of the Burma Chamber of Commerce here that negotiations for joint ventures with the Burmah Oil Company and the Burma Corporation, Limited, the two main British enterprises in the country, were progressing favourably.

The Burmah Oil Company owns oil refineries near Rangoon and the Burma Corporation operates silver and lead mines in the Shan States.  
"It is in this scheme of joint ventures that the Government sees, the most practical means of associating indigenous Burmese interests and talents with the more important industries in the country," Thakin Nu said.

The Prime Minister added that it was the policy of the Government to decontrol the import trade progressively so far as was consistent with the balance of trade position and the need to ensure that nations continued to share on a fair basis in the import trade.

Thakin Nu said that the Government had under active consideration amendments to the Burma income tax regulations as suggested by the Chamber—provisions in the Act to carry forward losses and provision for obsolescence and depreciation in line with those in Britain and India.

Mr G. S. Nicholl, Chairman of the Chamber of Commerce, said in a review of trade in Burma last year, that in the main trade and industry had continued at the low levels reached during the earlier period of insurrection two years ago.

"In very recent months, however, signs were not lacking," he said, "that the overall trading position is beginning to show a better tendency, and the tide is turning, if but slowly."—Reuter.

## LONDON ANSWERS GOTTWALD

London, Feb. 26.

A Foreign Office spokesman today denied knowledge of any plot in Czechoslovakia involving the British Government.

He was commenting on a statement made by the President of Czechoslovakia, Dr Klement Gottwald, that Otto Sling, a Communist Party secretary, said to have been plotting against the State, was working for the British Intelligence Service.

The spokesman added: "If the charge of Titoism means anything it still means that many Czechs, even within the ranks of the Communist Party, are unwilling to subordinate Czechoslovakia's national interests to the demands of their Soviet taskmasters."

"Since purges have been reported in Czechoslovakia, especially in the Ministries of Foreign Trade and Industry, there is some reason to suppose that the root of the trouble is resistance to economic subservience," he added.

The Bulgarian Communist leader, Dr Taicho Maitov, who was executed as a traitor, was involved in a similar conflict, the spokesman declared.

He had disrupted the prices proposed by the Soviet Government in trade exchanges between the two countries.—Reuter.

## TRANSPORT IN PARIS TIED UP BY STRIKE

Paris, Feb. 26.

The city's motor-bus and underground railway workers brought almost all public transport to a standstill today in a one-day demonstration strike against the Government's refusal to grant a 6,000 francs a month wage increase.

Even the private lorries and buses which usually run a "blackleg" service in transport strikes were off the road, the Ministry of Transport having refused them permission to increase their minimum charge from 30 to 40 francs.

After noon, non-strikers got five of the city's Metro lines working and passengers who had expected to pay increased fares from today found that travel was free. Ticket-clerks put up "no tickets for sale" notices and clippers serenely told travellers, "No tickets required."

Most stations were closed for lack of workers. Fares were to have been increased from 20 francs to 22 francs.

Street traffic became more congested than usual as everyone with a bicycle or any other vehicle brought out his own transport. Sixty army lorries replaced some of the bus services.

Later in the day the Ministry of Transport relented and allowed private lorry and bus owners to ply for passengers at 40 francs a head.

Several hundred vehicles were soon on the streets, crammed with standing passengers, there being no room to sit down. Taxi drivers did a roaring trade.

As transport on the surface improved, underground trains became fewer.

### STANDING FIRM

Only one train was running on four of the five lines in partial operation and eight on the other—the important north-south line linking the stations of St Lazare and Montparnasse. Normally, 350 trains run on the Metro network.

At the headquarters of the Transport Authority in Paris it was stated that the re-starting of power supplies tomorrow would probably mean that services would only gradually return to normal.

The strike committee, grouping representatives of all unions, in a communique stressed "the firm will of the personnel of the Paris Transport Authority to secure their pay increase of 6,000 francs per month for all."

It was added that strike pickets had been reinforced.—Reuter.

## Taipeh's Version Of Sinkiang Fighting

Taipeh, Feb. 26.

The evening paper "Tah Hua Wen Pao" charged today that the Soviet air force helped the Chinese Communists in their operations against Nationalist guerillas in Sinkiang province, resulting in the capture of Usman Batur, the Nationalist Governor of Sinkiang.

Giving its source as Sinkiang officials, the Taipei paper said 10,000 guerillas under the command of General Yao Lopa attacked Tihua (Urumchi) early in January. It said Russian planes joined in the fighting when the Chinese Communist garrison was on the verge of collapse.

The paper alleged that General Yao was forced to retreat into neighbouring Tsinghai province where he joined forces with Usman Batur. It added that the pursuing Reds routed the guerillas there.

The paper said Usman was captured with over 20 provincial officials. It said 11 of them were shot by the Chinese Communists at Tihua later.

The paper revealed that General Yao was at present hiding somewhere near the Kashmir border and was planning to come to Formosa.—United Press.

## Condemned Nazis Still Have Chance

Washington, Feb. 26.

The United States Supreme Court has granted the lawyer representing seven German war criminals, awaiting execution at Landsberg Prison, 30 days to apply for a writ.

The writ (a writ of certiorari), if granted, would direct the United States Court of Appeals to submit records to the Supreme Court, who would then review the case.

The lawyer, Mr Warren Magee, took the case of the prisoners to the Supreme Court after failing to obtain writs of habeas corpus. The United States Government has ordered American officials in Germany to postpone the executions while legal action here continues.

Mr Magee told Reuter today that he would not apply for the writ until the last moment. The seven men have been under sentence of death for about three years. When the American authorities refused to include them in the "final list" of reprieved war criminals on Jan. 31, their lawyer appealed to the United States Supreme Court after several preliminary legal processes.—Reuter.

## 250,000 Americans In Korea

Washington, Feb. 26.

A quarter of a million Americans are fighting in the Korean campaign, General Omar N. Bradley, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, disclosed today.

Testifying before the House of Representatives Armed Services Committee, he said that these men were serving in all branches of the armed forces, but did not give a breakdown of figures for the Army, Navy, Marines and the Air Force.

The Committee was considering a compromise military manpower bill which would lower the conscription age from 19 to 18 years and six months, and set up machinery for universal military service as part of a long-range programme.

General Bradley said that world conditions, which had caused the Joint Chiefs of Staff to recommend a partial mobilisation, of 3,500,000 men, may persist for 10, 15 or 20 years.—Reuter.



# HUNGARIAN BLAST AT TITO

## Aggressive War Said To Be Intention Of Yugoslav Regime

### DULLES REPORT FORECAST

Washington, Feb. 26.  
Mr Foster Dulles, President Truman's special envoy on a Japanese peace treaty, spent his first day back in Washington conferring with State Department officers on the rough outline of the report he will make to the President. Sources close to the Dulles mission said he was expected to make the following points:

1. Australia and New Zealand are pressing very strongly for some sort of co-operative security arrangement in the Pacific to guarantee that area against possible Japanese military resurgence, as well as against Communist aggression.

2. They believe some sort of Pacific Pact is necessary and if they agree to the United States proposition the peace treaty should contain no restriction against Japanese rearmament.

Whether the United States can allay Australian and New Zealand fears short of a full regional pact and by some other form of guarantees remains to be decided.—United Press.

### Communist Batteries Destroyed

U.S.S. Manchester, Feb. 26.  
American destroyers and frigates fought a duel with Communist shore batteries near North East Korean port of Wonsan yesterday—and knocked them out with an intensive barrage lasting only a few minutes, reports Warren White, Reuters' correspondent.

On Saturday the Communist gunners positioned on a hill near the port fired through mist at this command ship as she lay at anchor in Wonsan harbour. As American gunners strove to pinpoint the enemy and get his range, snow began to fall and it became impossible to find the batteries.

When the weather cleared at noon yesterday the Communists opened fire again—and were quickly spotted. Two destroyers, the Sperry and the Osborne, and three frigates opened fire simultaneously.

A few minutes later a Navy helicopter flew over the silent Communist gun emplacements and reported them completely destroyed.

The pilot added that he saw no sign of life on the hill.—Reuters.

### Envoy's Appointment

London, Feb. 26.  
His Majesty the King has approved the appointment of Mr L. H. Foulds, former British Minister to the Philippines, as British Ambassador to Ecuador, it was announced today.—United Press.

### Budapest Defence Minister's Claims

Budapest, Feb. 26.

The Defence Minister, General Miasly Farkas, said today that Hungary was in the process of raising its army to the limit of the peace treaty provisions—and not beyond them.

The General—who is also Deputy Secretary of the Hungarian Workers' Party—told his Party's second congress that these defence measures would not divert Hungary from her "consistent policy of peace."

Referring to last year's purge in the Hungarian army, he said that today 68 percent of the army's general officers were of worker and peasant origin.

The General claimed that Yugoslavia was maintaining a vast army of 750,000 men having no other purpose than aggressive war.

The warlike intentions of Marshal Tito's regime were manifested, he said, by 790 border provocations by Yugoslavs along the Yugoslav-Hungarian frontier during 1950.

He alleged that hundreds of spies and provocateurs were infiltrating through the border. But these people were rendered harmless by Hungarian security measures.

"Marshal Tito," he declared, "will soon share the ignominious fate of Chiang Kai-shek."—Reuters.

### FRENCH INTEREST

Belgrade, Feb. 26.

M. Philippe Baudet, French Ambassador to Yugoslavia, told Marshal Tito today that his Government was following with the most serious attention the situation created in the Balkans by the rearmament of Bulgaria, Rumania and Hungary.

A French Embassy communique, reporting this tonight, said that M. Baudet added that if the danger which threatened Yugoslavia became imminent his Government would not hesitate immediately to examine all the possible consequences within the framework of its international engagements.

Marshal Tito, according to Tanjug, the official Yugoslav news agency, expressed his satisfaction with the French standpoint which, it said, showed French interest for the preservation of peace in this part of Europe.—Reuters.

### Desperate Coal Shortage

Melbourne, Feb. 26.

Victoria's Transport Minister, Mr H.J.T. Hyland, will leave for India in April in search of coal for gas and steam.

The Prime Minister, Mr G.J.B. McDonald, announcing this tonight, said: "We do not mind where it comes from as long as we get the coal."

The Prime Minister added: "The position is desperate."—Reuters.

### LABOUR TROUBLE IN SAIGON

Saigon, Feb. 26.

French Union army technicians moved into Saigon's electric power plant late today when more than 300 workers struck for a 30 percent wage increase.

The troops took over at the request of the Vietnamese Prefect who feared that Vietminh underground agents of the Vietnam rebel republic might take advantage of the situation if the power failed.

They will ensure the supply of electricity to Saigon and its China-town, Cholan, population 2,000,000).

The Prefect was also reported to be issuing an order requisitioning the services of the strikers who have rejected the management's offer of a 10 percent wage increase.

About 140 workers were at their posts in the plant which was patrolled by the Vietnam police while labour officers began conciliation talks.—Reuters.

### Tea Crops In Danger

London, Feb. 26.

Mr Eric Bullus (Conservative) asked in the House of Commons today if enough copper could be released to British chemical-making firms to meet the needs of Ceylon and India in their efforts to save tea crops from blister blight.

Mr George Strauss, Minister of Supply, replied that normally copper used for this purpose was obtained from scrap, whose distribution was not controlled by his department.

Mr Strauss said that he had not received any requests from chemical firms for virgin copper, but he would be unwilling to encourage its use for new purposes.—Reuters.



This 13-year-old lad and his dog are going home through Stathorst, The Netherlands, after taking their milk cans to the road where they will be picked up. Except for rubber tyres, this dog cart scene might have taken place 200 years ago, but it's a sight that is slowly vanishing from the country which is gradually modernising rural transportation facilities.

### Pleven Cabinet's Fall Expected

Paris, Feb. 26.

Black pessimism about the French Government's prospects of surviving the electoral reform debate to be resumed tomorrow afternoon characterised Ministers of all parties as they left a four-hour Cabinet meeting presided over by the Prime Minister, M. Rene Pleven, tonight.

No agreement was reached, it was learned, between the Radicals who insist on a two-poll voting system and the Popular Republicans who insist on a single ballot.

Asked whether "a dose of penicillin could still save the Government", the Minister of State, M. Paul Giacobbi, in charge of the Electoral Reform Bill, told reporters after the Cabinet meeting, "It would have to be a lot of penicillin".

M. Albert Gozier, Minister of Information, said that the Cabinet had reached no agreement about what attitude to take about the controversial clauses of the Electoral Reform Bill if the Assembly tomorrow voted in favour of debating this bill. The decision on whether or not to

debate the bill has been made a matter of confidence by the Government but a vote in favour of the Government would commit nobody to the bill's provisions.

A full Council of Ministers, presided over by the President of the Republic, M. Vincent Auriol, will meet tomorrow morning to deliberate once more on the issue.

Should the Cabinet be unable to decide to take sides for or against the two-poll system, the Radicals may declare that it is not worth opening the debate on the Government bill and the Government might very well fall tomorrow afternoon.—Reuters.

### NANCY

Getting The Point

By Ernie Bushmiller





## Draw For The FA Cup Semi-finals

London, Feb. 26.  
The draw for the semi-finals of the Football Association Cup, made today, resulted as follows:

Bristol Rovers or Newcastle versus Sunderland or Wolverhampton.

Birmingham versus Blackpool.

The Birmingham versus Blackpool Cup semi-final will be played on Manchester City's ground at Maine Road on March 10.

It is understood that the other semi-final venue will be chosen following the sixth round replays on Wednesday.

The Council has appointed Mr William Ling, of Cambridge-shire, to referee the FA Cup final at Wembley on April 28. Mr Ling has refereed international matches in Stockholm, Antwerp, Madrid, Glasgow and Dublin.—Reuter.

### SCOTTISH CUP DRAW

London, Feb. 26.  
The Scottish Cup fourth-round draw, made today, resulted as follows:

Ayr United versus Motherwell.

Airdreionians versus Hibernian.

Dumfries versus Raith Rovers.

Celtic versus Aberdeen.

Ties are to be played on March 10.—Reuter.

### WEDNESDAY LOSE

London, Feb. 26.  
Sheffield Wednesday lost to Manchester United by four goals to nil in a First Division match played today. This match was postponed last Saturday, February 24, as Manchester United were engaged in the Football Association Cup.—Reuter.

## "Sugar Ray" To Fight For One Franc

New York, Feb. 26.  
Ray Robinson, the world middleweight boxing champion, has agreed to defend his title in France against Kid Marcel, the French title-holder, in May.

This was announced today by Robinson's manager, Mr George Gainford, who added that the champion's share of the purse would be one franc. The fight would be held between May 14 and 20 at the Palais de Sport, he said.

Robinson's purse will go to the Cancer Society of France, Mr Gainford stated.—Reuter.

## Rugger Results

London, Feb. 26.  
The following were the results of Rugby Union games played today:

**Hospital's Cup Second Round**  
Middlesex Hospital 11, Westminster Hospital 8.

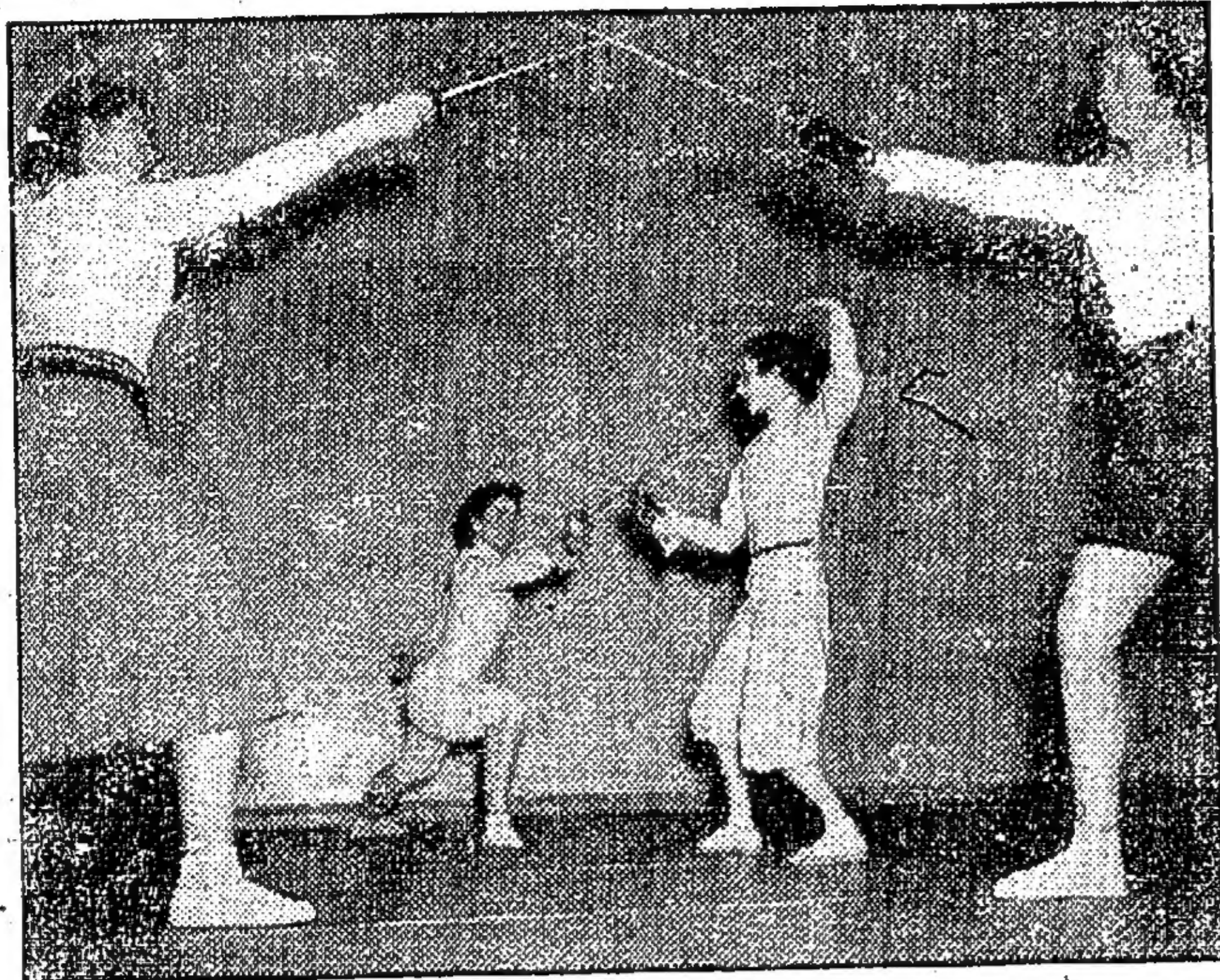
**Other Match**  
Cross Keys 0, Newbridge 0.—Reuter.

## THE GAMBOLS



# SOMEBODY'S FINALLY GETTING TOUGH IN BRITISH SPORT

## LADIES' DAY



This picture was taken on 'Ladies' Day' in the Universities' Fencing Championships at the LCC School of Physical Culture in Paddington-street, London. It shows Gillian Sheen, of Willesden (left) and Lorna Harrison, of Gateshead being flanked by two other competitors before the session began. — Central Press Service.

## French Horse Keenly Supported To Win Lincolnshire Handicap

London, Feb. 26.

The French horse, Astromonte, was keenly supported to win the Lincolnshire Handicap when a callover on the race took place at the Victoria Club here tonight.

The horse's owner, the Comte de Chambure, has stated that Astromonte can be considered as a certain runner and the ace jockey, Rae Johnstone has been engaged to ride the horse.

Johnstone will have to put up two pounds overweight and backers, taking this hint, backed the four-year-old down to 9 to 1 second favourite. The previous callover price was 100 to 8.

Masked Light, Gordon Richard's mount, remained unchanged at 13 to 2 at the head of the market while Fair Judgment, the 1949 winner and runner up last year, advanced four points to share third favouritism with Cabbage Hill.

The Grand National market was stagnant. Offers about most of the leading candidates were unchanged. The Irish horse, Royal Tan, was quietly supported, however. His price of 33 to 1 showed a decline of 17 points on last week's offer.

### THE BETTING

The full betting:  
**Lincolnshire Handicap (March 31)**  
13 to 2 Masked Light,  
9 to 1 Astromonte,  
100 to 6 Fair Judgment and Cabbage Hill,  
20 to 1 The Moke and Paganini,  
25 to 1 Flower Dust, Refund, Indian Empire, Persia, Jacobite, Richard Louis and Seconds Out,  
33 to 1 Merry Rose, Barnes Park, Full Hand, Spy Legend, Paradise, Rose Pink, Sugar Bowl and Blue Sepal,  
40 to 1 Sweet William.  
**Grand National (April 7)**  
8 to 1 Freebooter,  
100 to 9 Arctic Gold and Shagreen,  
100 to 6 Land Fort and Roimond,  
25 to 1 Cloncarraig, Finnure, Part Point and Prince Brownie,  
33 to 1 Royal Tan and Glenfire,  
40 to 1 Broomfield, Sergeant Kelly, Ellesmere and Russian Hero,  
50 to 1 Dog Watch.—Reuter.

## Humez Wins French Welter Title

Paris, Feb. 26.  
Charles Humez won the French welterweight boxing championship here tonight when he out-pointed the holder, Gilbert Lavoine.—Reuter.

## Ronnie Clayton Beats Phillips To Retain Titles

Nottingham, Feb. 26.

Ronnie Clayton retained his British and Empire feather-weight boxing titles when he beat Al Phillips on points over 15 rounds here tonight.

It was a great victory for the Champion, but it was not surprising that the 6,000 crowd gave most of their applause and certainly all their sympathy to one of the most gallant losers the British ring has seen for a long time.

Phillips, his left eye completely closed and black and blue, his nose swollen to twice its normal size, his lips puffed and bleeding, fought against insurmountable odds in the closing rounds and though he must have known that his task was hopeless he never gave up hope.

Phillips did quite well in the first three rounds but Clayton began to put on pressure in the fourth round, and from then onwards, apart from an occasional spurt by the challenger, the issue was never really in doubt.—Reuter.

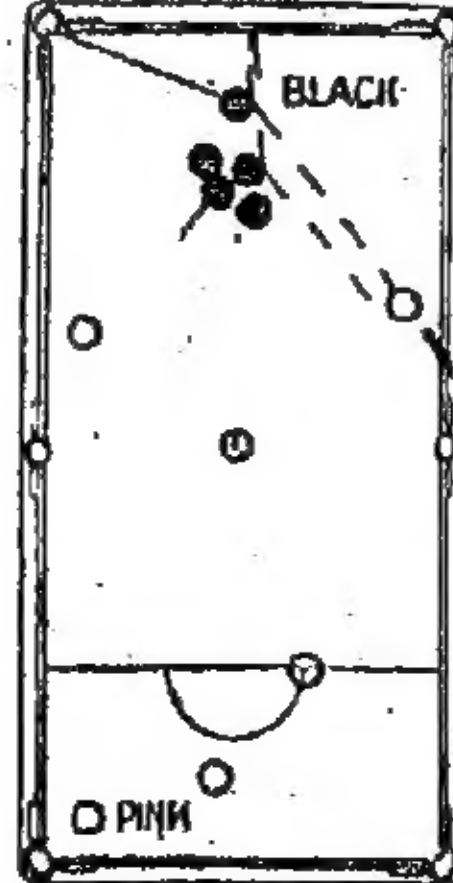
## PLAN SHOTS AHEAD IN SNOOKER BREAKS

MERELY potting easy reds and to colours will not do if you want to build a fine snooker break. Always think of the next shot and plan ahead.

Four reds were neaped together near the pyramid spot after striker potted a black, blue and three reds for a useful 15. He then sank diagram pink to total 21.

His break might have been doubled or even tripled by playing the diagram black instead of the easy pink.

Contact on black is fine, about a quarter-ball. White springs back off the top cushion to split up those reds. Play steadily to disturb the reds without scattering them too far and wide.



## "London Comb." Gets Ready To Put Soccer Back On The Map

Somebody's getting tough in British sport—at last. That is fine. It is something some of us have been appealing for for a long time, and at last the lead is coming—in Soccer. Not from the Football Association, not from the Football League, but, believe it or not, from the Football Combination.

In spite of that all-embracing title, I suppose everyone in the game will always refer to that body which covers most of the reserve teams of the Football League clubs south of the Trent as the "London Comb."

Yes, it is from the reserve section where the right policy for putting Soccer back on the map is beginning. There has been an annual Combination fixture on the Continent for years now, and this season a combined Paris side provides the opposition on March 8.

When the chosen side is announced, you are going to have a shock. That is if you expect it to be composed of men generally considered reserve team players, because if those selecting the side pursue their present line of thought, you will find no fewer than eight internationals in the side.

### TAKING NO LIBERTY

Taking a liberty, you say? Not on your life, because I happen to know that there'll be no fewer than nine capped men in the French team.

London clubs will provide the bulk of the visiting team, but there will also be at least one Portsmouth player in the line-up, and I shall be surprised if the capped men chosen do not include Ted Ditchburn, Alf Ramsey, Walley Barnes, Les Compton and Jimmy Dickinson.

Anyone squealing? Well, there'll be a moan or two, quite naturally, from the regular Combination players who will be thinking they have been passed over for representative honours, but, after all, the big names have been known to play in the reserve sides, and they are all registered Combination players.

The selectors obviously mean business. They are victory bent. Others please copy, including MCC.

### ENGLAND'S NEXT

We know cricket needs some fighters. That's why I'm tipping a wee fellow I met off an aircraft from India the other day as England's next wicketkeeper. Twenty-nine-year-old Somerset stumper Harold Stephenson, whom I sent to the Commonwealth side as a replacement in December, has earned high rating under the eagle eyes of two former England keepers, George Duckworth and Les Ames, the latter an England selector.

Little Stevey, in spite of once telling me that he didn't consider himself a batsman, comes home with a batting average of 76 in Tests and 75 in all cricket out East. Irony of it all is that he missed the Aussie trip, because he had scored just a shade fewer runs than Surrey's Arthur McIntyre, who hasn't exactly been a roaring success down under.

Reason for his return? To undergo an operation for hernia—sustained when diving into a swimming pool in Madras—in time to get fit for next summer.

Another man now in India I expect to see performing against the South Africans is Kent's quick bowler Fred Ridgway. He's achieved great success on the east-iron wickets out there, and I have Stevey's assurance that he really maintains his pace. Well, he should know.

### TO PROTECT YOUNGSTERS

The Rugby League rulers will shortly be taking a definite step forward when they insist on clubs entering into agreements with junior players.

I gather that they have in mind a trial period of not longer

than three months or six matches, which will prevent a repetition of a case in which Bramley kept a lad hanging on for 18 months.

Something similar wouldn't come amiss in Soccer. I was told recently of a Midlands Football League club with hundreds of youngsters signed, many of whom never had a hope of getting even half a chance. Perhaps they do it on dog-in-the-manger lines, so that no one else shall sign them; but it isn't good enough.

Coming to England this summer is world quarter mile record-holder Herb McKenley. Arriving by Whitsun, I'm told that he has ideas about staying the whole summer.

No doubt about the fact that promoters will be falling over themselves for his services, but who is going to find a way of evading the rule of the International Amateur Athletic Federation which says that "an amateur cannot receive payment for his travelling and other expenses to enable him to take part in competition abroad for a longer sojourn than 28 days in all the calendar year spent in foreign countries."

Take the case of McDonald Bailey and Arthur Wint. These two spent 15 days in the States in January, although they ran at only three meetings, and they have only 13 days' competition abroad left to them until next December.

### A GROUSE

If a solution is found for McKenley, surely Mac and Arthur will have a grouse. And it could happen, strange as it seems, for the Amateur Athletic Union of America, under whose jurisdiction McKenley runs, although he's a Jamaican, seem to have got rather effectively round the fact that a couple of their athletes spent the best part of three months in Sweden last year.

One more point about McKenley. Unless he gets down to some very serious training don't expect "Austling Herb," to be the whirlwind of 1947 and 1948. An athlete needs more than competition to keep him in world class, and his performances on the boards recently haven't been so hot.

A pat on the back for a governing body which has taken plenty of kicks in its time—the English Table Tennis Association. They've decided to fit out the England players going to the world championships in Vienna so that they look like a team.

They'll have royal blue track suits, royal blue shirts to match, neatly tailored shorts, and special shoes—all alike. Now that they're following the lead of other countries, perhaps clubs will follow suit, so that the tournament collection of colours we see—yes, including "snooker set" pullovers—doesn't look like something left over from Monday's clothes line.

— HAROLD MAYES







# RED BUILD-UP ON HAN RIVER

*Expected To Hold Stubbornly On To New Defence Line*

## Thaw Conditions Causing United Nations To Pause

Tokyo, Feb. 26.

British Commonwealth patrols, probing warily along the Communist Han River line east of Seoul, today found evidence of a big build-up of enemy troops north of the river.

For 12 hours now an uneasy quiet has lain over the frontline while the Chinese Communists and North Koreans slowly pull back to the line that Allied intelligence officers expected them to hold.

The Commonwealth patrols went right up among the Communists—one patrol crossed the river and probed within two miles of Seoul—but came back with only small arms and mortar fire to check them.

### Heligoland Invaders Captured

Hamburg, Feb. 26.

Two British officers and 14 German police today removed seven Communist "invaders" from the North Sea Island of Heligoland, where they had landed on Friday.

The Communists were all that remained of a party of 20 who sailed to the former U-boat base to protest against the Allied use of the island for practice bombing.

A representative of the Free German Youth Movement, to which they belonged, alleged here earlier today that they were machine-gunned by an unidentified bomber on Friday.

He told reporters that soon after his arrival, the bomber had first dropped six bombs from 10,000 feet altitude. There were no casualties.

The Royal Air Force Headquarters in Germany announced today that a British bomber bombed and strafed the island on Friday, about 2.00 p.m. GMT. It added that the crew of the plane, which took off from an airbase in the British Isles, reported on its return that they had seen nobody on the island.

Britain told West Germany today that she would give up Heligoland as a bombing target by March, 1952, an official announcement said here today.

The former German island fortress and North Sea submarine base has been a practice target for British and American heavy bombers since the end of the war.

A heavy force pulverised the island in one of the last raids of the war and since then it has been uninhabited.

The Federal Chancellor, Dr Konrad Adenauer, promised he would co-operate in finding an alternative target site and in preventing demonstrations on the island.—Reuter.

**STOP PRESS**

**TEST SCORE**

England 236 for 7. Bedser, b Lindwall 11, Simpson not out 85, Bailey not out 5.

The line which the Communists are expected to hold runs east from Seoul, the southern capital, which the Communists have been told to retain to the last, along the bank of the Han River to Yangpyong, 30 miles away, then across mountain country to Hongsong, 25 miles further on.

Lieutenant-General Matthew B. Ridgway, United Nations Eighth Army Commander, conferred with his Corps commanders today on the central front situation.

Meeting at a forward headquarters on the central sector, the three Corps commanders, Major-General O. P. Smith, Lieutenant-General Frank Milburn and Lieutenant-General E. M. Almond, discussed the next move.

The picture of the front put before them was that the United Nations offensive had ground to a halt after six days, livened only by patrol clashes.

South Korean troops were said to be in action with a battalion of Chinese Communists west of Wouju, but no details of the engagement had come in.

#### STRIKING POTENTIAL

Two factors featured in the General's talks observers believed. They were the striking potential of the Chinese Communists cloaked by their withdrawal and the weather.

In the past week the commanders have learned that a single day's rain in the present thaw conditions can stop supplies to the line by flooding roads and washing away country bridges.

The highly mechanised United Nations army stands to lose a lot by the change of season. The Chinese Communists and North Koreans, with supplies based to a large extent on manpower and pack animals, will be less affected.

A full-blooded Chinese Communist counter-offensive properly timed to take full advantage of this seasonal change could have serious results if it caught the Eighth Army north of the Han River.

#### THE DANGER

The weather could be an ally of the Chinese Communists, an ally as powerful as an army corps in the rear of the United Nations line. A United Nations withdrawal would almost certainly involve the loss of heavy equipment.

Heavy tanks, guns and wheeled vehicles would be difficult enough to move on a boggy road and if the few flimsy bridges were destroyed—swept away by floods or wrecked by raiding aircraft or Communist patrols—they would probably have to be abandoned.—Reuter.

### Dulles Reports Today

Washington, Feb. 26. State Department sources revealed that Mr John Foster Dulles will report to President Truman on Tuesday afternoon on the results of his Pacific tour and to discuss the "dual problem" of the Japanese peace treaty and a possible Pacific defence pact. Mr Dulles is President Truman's special representative on the treaty discussions.—United Press.

### Pontecorvo Could Not Reveal Much

London, Feb. 26.

British atomic experts said today that Professor Bruno Pontecorvo, the atom scientist who fled to Russia last summer, would not have told the Russians much more than they already knew.

He knew no more about plutonium, the vital atom bomb component, than Klaus Fuchs, the Soviet spy now in a British gaol for passing secrets.

Experts said it was known that Fuchs had more technical knowledge than Pontecorvo, who was reported "missing" after leaving the Harwell atom centre for a continental holiday.

They discounted a newspaper report that Fuchs did not know how plutonium was made, but that Pontecorvo did.

The security authorities believed that Pontecorvo gave Soviet agents details about the atomic explosive which Fuchs did not know. There was no confirmation of this newspaper story in official circles.

Pontecorvo was last seen in Helsinki, the Finnish capital, in October. The British Minister of Supply, Mr George Strauss, told Parliament in November he had no doubt that Pontecorvo was in Russia. It was the last official Government statement on the case, which is now considered closed.—Reuter.

### Statistical Juggling By Russians

Washington, Feb. 26.

A State Department source charged today that the Soviet Union was guilty of "statistical tricks" in its note to Britain charging that the Western allies had built their armed forces to twice the size of those of Russia.

This source asserted that the Soviet note constituted an attempt to hide the actual increase of the Soviet armed forces since the end of the war.

The Russians said in their note that the Soviet land and air forces at present were exactly the same as the numerical strength of the armed forces of the USSR before the outbreak of the second world war in 1939.—United Press.



These rocket-shaped pipes in London will produce only the melodic tones of an organ during the Festival of Britain. Although they look like missiles, the pipes are a reminder that Britain is preparing for peace as well as defence. Here a workman arranges the music pipes like instruments of the 18th Century.

## Togliatti To Deal With Revolt Of Italian Reds

Rome, Feb. 26.

The Italian Communist leader, Palmiro Togliatti, is returning to Rome tonight after 10 weeks' convalescence in Moscow to face the anti-Cominform revolt in his 2,000,000-strong party.

He was expected to come by train from Venice where he arrived this morning with his companions, a woman deputy, Leonide Jetti and a Communist Senator, Vincenzo Moscatelli.

He was met by his two chief lieutenants, Pietro Secchia, and Luigi Longo, who have been grappling for the past month with the Party revolt led by two ex-Communist deputies, Aldo Cucchi and Valdo Magnani.

Protesting against "dictatorial terror," they resigned from the Party—the strongest Communist group in Europe outside Russia—on Jan. 27, six weeks after Togliatti went to Moscow after an operation for a brain clot.

At once they started organising a break-away movement for "the independence and unity" of Italian workers while the Italian Communist High Command branded them as "traitors and imperialist spies."

A week ago it was estimated that the Communist Party and their Socialist allies under Pietro Nenni had lost about 300 members through defection as a result of the rebels' call for support. But since then estimates have become impossible with the setting up of "autonomous federations" claiming the support of thousands of members in Rovigo, Ancona Ascoli and other places.

In Togliatti's absence, Secchia ordered "revolutionary vigilance" committees to swing into action through the Party's network in Italy.

On reaching Rome, Togliatti is expected to go speedily to his headquarters in the "street of the dark shops."

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